

September outlook indicates moderating temperatures and fire behavior

A slow warming and drying trend over Labor Day weekend will be moderated by stable atmosphere, decreasing winds and reduced thunderstorm risk. Early and mid-September is forecast for normal conditions, but warmer and drier in southwest Oregon and potentially wetter than normal in the northern half of Washington. But by weeks 3 and 4 of September, longer-term outlooks call for warmer and drier than normal conditions throughout the Northwest.

With temperatures and fire indices moderating across the PNW, some units are looking ahead to prescribed fire season. The Umatilla NF is planning to burn 1,800 acres, potentially as early as Tuesday.

Safety officers working in SORO pulled together some interesting statistics for the region. In July, resources assigned to fires in the PNW put in more than 5.3 million labor hours—the equivalent of 665,910 work days or 2.6 years.

An emerging incident near Grants Pass, the I-5 MP54 Fire quickly grew to 15 acres and caused delays on the interstate Friday afternoon. An additional fire was reported at MP 51. ODF had requested a very large airtanker (VLAT), as well as multiple ground resources. More information is at <http://swojc.blogspot.com/2018/08/new-fire-start-near-grants-pass.html> and <http://mailtribune.com/news/happening-now/gp-fires-prompt-i-5-delays>.

Helpful Links:

- PNW Execs blog: pnwexecs.blogspot.com (this page provide execs with easily accessed tools for looking ahead 3 days to 30 days. All are links to NWCC pages but made easy to find on this one page)
- NWCC Blog: [http://nwccinfo.blogspot.com/](http://nwccinfo.blogspot.com)
- Oregon Smoke blog: [http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/](http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com)
- Washington Smoke blog: [http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/](http://wasmoke.blogspot.com)
- 7-Day Fire Potential Outlook: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/wx/guidance/DL.pdf>
- NWCC Morning Brief: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/intelligence/MORNINGBRIEF.pdf>

Fire-related articles:

Oregon Makes Case for Prescribed Fire Smoke: <https://www.opb.org/news/article/oregon-smoke-better-prescribed-fire-burns/>

BLM Crew 10 featured: <http://www.kdhv.com/content/news/Fire-Crew-Aims-to-Help-Military-Veterans-Learn-New-Skills-492048151.html>

One year after Eagle Creek: <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/community-looks-back-at-the-eagle-creek-fire-one-year-later/283-589376768>

Living with Fire in the Columbia River Gorge: <https://portlandtribune.com/sl/404724-302498-living-with-fire-in-the-columbia-river-gorge>

Housing for people forced out by wildfire smoke: https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2018/08/wyden_bill_would_fund_housing.html

LARGE INCIDENTS - WASHINGTON

Crescent Mountain/McLeod/Holman Fires: NR IMT 1, IC Turman, is managing the 45,128-acre Crescent Mountain fire, the 22,534-acre [McLeod Fire](#), and the 297-acre Holman Fire, which are burning on the Methow Valley Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. Both the McLeod and the Crescent Mountain fires are 35-percent contained. Evacuation levels remain the same, with Level 3 and 2 evacuations remain in effect in some areas of the Twisp River Valley.

• **Crescent Mountain:** The fire grew active today, falling off of Buttermilk Butte and prompting additional Level 2 evacuations in the Libby Creek Road and Smith Canyon Road in the Methow Valley. Crews will also monitor a slopover on the north side of the fire. More information is at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6093/>

• **McLeod Fire:** Crews continued tactical firing operations west of Goat Creek and on the north end of the 8-Mile Road to the 2017 Diamond Fire burned area.

Cougar Creek/Bannock Lake/White Pine/Lost Fires: NW Team 10, IC Lawson, is managing four fires. Cougar Creek fire is reported at 41,704 acres 50% and Bannock Lake Fire is at 491 acres. The Lost Fire is contained. All evacuation levels have been dropped. The Entiat River Road and campgrounds are open to the public for the holiday weekend. Crews were working today to extract a tender that rolled over a week ago. The team struggled with an internet crash yesterday. More information is at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6053/>

LARGE INCIDENTS - OREGON

Klondike Fire: (SA Blue, IC Deuitt). The Southern Area Red Team assumed command of the fire at 6 a.m. this morning. No infrared flight occurred last night, so the fire is still showing at 102,165 acres and 40 percent contained. Today firefighters again attempted to conduct tactical firing operations on Wildhorse road, which will be a major asset for protecting the town of Agness. Due to high relative humidity with the marine flow, they were unable to complete the burnout. A few Level 3 evacuations remain in place with Level 2 evacuation orders for the community of Agness. A closure remains for Bear Camp road. People in Agness at Thursday's community meeting had mostly positive feedback, with one malcontent frustrated by lack of helicopter use. More information is at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5998/>.

Terwilliger Fire: NR Team, IC Connell is managing the 7,845-acre Terwilliger Fire with 17 percent containment. This fire is located on the Willamette National Forest near the Terwilliger (Cougar) Hot Springs and burning on both sides of Cougar Reservoir. Crews are prepping for a burnout along the 1986 road, and are doing structure assessment at Cougar camp and structures along Hwy. 126. Additionally, the team is opening an old road on the north side of the McKenzie River, and rerouting most fire traffic around the 19 road due to snags and rollout. A parked lowboy was struck by the top of a green tree. The Willamette NF expanded its forest closure. A community meeting is planned for Saturday evening in Blue River. Information can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6160/>

Watson Creek: (NW Team 6, IC Sheldon) The 58,902-acre fire is burning 13 miles west of Paisley on the Fremont-Winema NF in an area of heavy standing dead, as well as down timber. The fire is 80 percent contained and burning primarily in the interior. The level 2 evacuations for Lakeview Estates, and a level 1 for 16 miles, 8 miles each side of Paisley. The forest closure has been reduced in size. One camp crew member suffered a cut toe from a Pulaski. The team is scheduled to transfer the fire back to the local unit on Sept. 4. More information is available at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6153/>

Natchez Fire: NW Team 13 (IC Gales) is managing the 27,076-acre Natchez Fire, which is 70 percent contained. Evacuation levels remain the same. Aerial ignitions were started today to lock in line from El Capitan to Mud Lake to Lookout. A successful meeting was held Thursday in Happy Camp, with the only complaints about smoke and one comment on the early response to the fire. One firefighter suffered a shoulder injury. More information can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5948/>

Taylor Creek (NW 12, IC Glazier) The fire is at 52,839 acres with 95 percent containment. Crews are assisting with suppression repair, including the removal of logs and water barring. All evacuation levels for the Taylor Creek Fire have been reduced to level 1. The road closures are also still in effect. The IMT will continue to work with local READS to determine rehabilitation needs into the future. The fire will transfer to a local type 3 team on Tuesday. More information is at the swojc.blogspot.com and <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6058/> for Taylor Creek.

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